# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:98
ANSWERED ON:03.12.1999
IMPORT OF RUBBER
P.C. THOMAS

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have procured Natural Rubber through S.T.C. and other institutions;

(b) if so, the quantity procured during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is a demand from farmers and Rubber Board to procure more rubber;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government have declared the price of natural rubber at Rs. 34.05 per kilo;

(f) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to ensure the implementation of this price for farmers; and (g) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b): The Government of India have procured Natural Rubber only through STCDuring the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till October 1999), 9596 MTs, 11439 MTs and 8392 MTs of Natural Rubber respectively have been procured.
(c) to (d): The Government of Kerala have requested for procurement of 20,000 tonnes of Natural Rubber.As imports of Natural Rubber were banned in February 1999 even against Advance Licences, the procurement of Natural Rubber by STC for supplying against Advance Licence is continuing.
(e) to (g): No Sir. Government has fixed the Benchmark Price for Natural Rubber after a detailed field study by the Ministry of Finance in September 1998 and the Benchmark Price for RSS-IV Grade was fixed at Rs. 34.05 per kgThe Benchmark Price is only an indicative price of Rubber.